

THE MORNING NEWS

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Obama in Berlin renews call for nuclear disarmament



US President Barack Obama (L) toasts with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a state dinner at the Schloss Charlottenburg in Berlin

BERLIN (AFP) - President Barack Obama issued a call for Russian and US nuclear arsenals to be slashed in a speech at Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate on Wednesday and warned Western governments against complacency, saying history's work was not done.

Obama used the once-divided city's rebirth as a metaphor for progress, as he stood on the east side of the route of the Berlin Wall.

"The wall belongs to history. But we have history to make as well," a sweat-streaked Obama said to an invited crowd of 4,500 people standing before the majestic landmark in sweltering summer weather.

The US leader called on Russia to agree to bring the number of strategic nuclear weapons held by the former Cold War foes down to around 1,000 and to also cut stocks of tactical nuclear arms.

"I've determined that we can ensure the security of America and our allies and maintain a strong deterrent while reducing our strategic weapons by up to one-third," Obama said.

"These are steps we can take to create a world of

peace and justice," he said, seeking to cement nuclear arms reductions as a key piece of his legacy.

It remains unclear whether Russian President Vladimir Putin, with whom Obama had a frosty meeting at the G8 summit in Northern Ireland on Monday, will agree to such substantial weapons cuts.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin however poured cold water on the proposal.

"How can we take seriously this idea about cuts in strategic nuclear potential while the United States is developing its potential to intercept this strategic potential?" he said, according Russia's Itar-TASS news agency.

A Kremlin spokesman said earlier that Russia had told the United States it wanted other nuclear armed states to commit to reductions.

Obama sought to conjure up the echoes of speeches by predecessors John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, though his speech lacked the historic weight and urgency of their Cold War efforts.

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Meet the EU Head of Delegation to the Dutch Caribbean: Ambassador Robert Kopecky

On Tuesday, June 18, Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman received Ambassador Robert Kopecky, stationed out of Georgetown, Guyana. Ambassador Kopecky paid this courtesy visit to present his Letters of Credence to the Prime Minister as Head of Delegation for the European Union to Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the Dutch Overseas Countries and Territories, which include the autonomous nations of Aruba, Curacao and San Martaan, and the municipalities of Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire.

The Prime Minister was pleased to present Ambassador Kopecky to island media and the public yesterday morning at the Europe House located within the Dr. Edward Cheung Center for Innovation. The PM reported they "had excellent discussions and shared ideas regarding Aruba's position within the region," particularly the potential for a win/win development between the EU, Latin America, the remainder of the region and the opportunities it offers.



PM Eman (R) with Ambassador Kopecky

When the Dr. Cheung center was unveiled, the EU had signed an agreement with Aruba committing large sums to upgrade the island's educational system, "which will certainly enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Aruba, contributing to its future. These are some of the shared values we have discussed," expressed the PM.

Ambassador Kopecky acknowledged this expressed a "confidence in the nation and a total trust of how the funds would be managed;" they do not make such investments lightly or frequently. He

agreed with the PM that financing education "is the best investment ever."

"I believe that the relationship of 'teacher-pupil' that existed in the past is finally over... we are looking at more of a partnership now," he continued. "I consider Aruba if not the most, than one of the most developed islands in the Caribbean." In his travels he has had the opportunity to compare the Arubans' multilingual capacity to other islands, where one, or the max two languages are used, and he opined this does give its people unique opportunities. It is another factor in the Prime Minister's plan to develop knowledge and liaison services between Europe and the region with Aruba as a hub, as a generator for commerce. The ambassador further complimented Aruba on establishing the travel avenues to Latin America, with daily flights to several of the more prosperous countries and important destinations. This is also quite unusual for the region, which further attracts investment.

Ambassador Kopecky is originally from the Czech Republic, and served in that country's diplomatic mission to Cuba for several years, giving him a particular insight into the people of the region. He expressed regret that his current visit was so short, but he looks forward to returning soon.

By Rosalie Klein



BRAZIL, Fortaleza : Protesters demonstrate as a group clashes with the riot police while trying to block access to the Castelao Stadium in Fortaleza to denounce the events' \$15 billion price-tag, on June 19, 2013. Some of the roughly 10,000 protesters at the site hurled stones at security forces, who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. Brazil deployed special federal police Wednesday to protect Confederations Cup venues, as mass "Tropical Spring" protests against government spending for the 2014 World Cup turn violent. (AFP PHOTO)

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A great familial bonding for "sisters from a different mister" on Aruba



Ellen Steadman of Saratoga Springs, New York has an appropriate name; she has been a steadfast devotee of Aruba since first purchasing time-share at the Aruba Beach Club with her husband, Bob, 26 years ago. For the past eight, after he passed away, Aruba has continued to be

her tranquil retreat for two weeks every June.

When she was just a baby, her parents separated and she was raised by her father, Joe, in New York. Her mother went on to marry again, to a Navy man, who every few years was stationed at various places around the world.

With her new husband, Ellen's mom, Eleanor, had two daughters and a son, a reversal of the two sons and a daughter she had with her first husband. Six kids all together, divided by circumstance and geography.

During her formative years, Ellen spent some summers and tried to get to know her other family better by living with them for a year, but her heart was with her father and brother in New York, and she returned to them to grow up there.

Ellen always had affection for her half sisters Veronica van Deventer and Clara Andriola, who now live in Baltimore, Maryland and Reno, Nevada, respectively. They would talk on the phone on birthdays and holidays and stay in touch, "but the years just get away from you," observed Clara, "life goes by pretty quick, and you can't go backwards."

Before they knew it, thirty years had passed before these "sisters from a different mister," had actually been together. Constantly, Ellen would invite them to join her for her annual sojourn on

Aruba, and though both sisters had the best of intentions, it never came to pass.

This year, both Veronica and Clara were determined to see it happen. "I might not be here again for us to do this, who knows," Ellen, the eldest, informed them. "She guilted us into it with the best of them, but really, it occurred to us that the opportunity might pass us by, and we should spend this time with her," they acknowledged. "It was an opportunity you can't put a price on."

So after 30 years of being apart, the sisters are together on Aruba, and admit "we are having the time of our lives. We never stop talking. We can't remember ever having laughed so much in our lives."

"I try to go to sleep," confesses Veronica, "and then I hear these two laughing and the next thing I know I am joining in; two hours later we're still at it." They also feel this being just a hen party for the three of them has made it extra special, a true time of discovery, where they

are learning so much about their family and their parents they never knew before.

"It has never occurred to us to call each other our 'half-sister,'" says Clara, "Ellen and her brothers have always been our brothers and sister, and now, even more so."

All three agree that Aruba has a vibe that has made it all so much better. "I would have gone anywhere to have this family reunion," claims Veronica, "but it really is nice to have it on Aruba."

"Absolutely," agree Clara and Ellen. "We are going to do our utmost to make this an annual tradition. Perhaps next year we can get our brothers to join us and have a real family reunion, the spouses too, maybe. We are really enjoying just being three free and easy girls on the go, sharing memories and swapping stories as we never had before. We have been connecting all those loose ends of our childhood. From now on this will be our motto: 'Next year in Aruba.'"

By Rosalie Klein



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AIFF 2013 Industry Events: Educational opportunity for students and everyone who want to learn more about the film making industry

For its fourth edition, the AIFF will introduce a series of new industry events as part of its educational initiative, such as master classes by established filmmakers, panel discussions about the film business, and in-depth interviews with industry representatives.

One can purchase tickets separately at AFL 10 or students from any country who are interested in attending the festival can apply for a Student Festival Pass at a special student rate of USD 100.00/AWG 180. Qualifying students can

use this pass for access to the following:

- All film screenings and industry events
- The Filmmakers' Lounge
- Festival opening and closing parties (awards ceremony not included)

Special Scholarship for Emerging Dutch Caribbean Filmmakers

Considering the lack of formal film education in the Dutch Caribbean region, the AIFF will provide Student Festival Passes for 20 qualify-



ing students. Applicants can range from 16-30 years old. No formal film education is

necessary, only a convincing motivation in the form of an essay. Scholarship recipients must attend ALL industry events and some film screenings, and will be asked to write a blog or produce a vlog which will be posted on the festival website. Travel, accommodation and food is not included.

To apply for a Student Festival Pass, go to www.arubafilmfest.com.

AIFF staff will notify Dutch Caribbean students regarding their scholarship applications. Upon confirmation of

attendance, students will be able to make payment arrangements for their festival passes.

MASTERCLASSES

Internationally acclaimed filmmakers will take you through the creative process "from script to screen", with comprehensive sessions in acting, writing, directing, producing, cinematography, editing, sound design.

Directing Then and Now – given by the director di Robocop, Total Recall, Basic Instinct and the opening film Tricked/Steekspel, Paul Verhoeven

The Hollywood Indie – Producer Randall Emmett of movies such as Rambo, y Empire State will demonstrate how to make big movies keeping in mind for the budget to exceed.

The Frugal Frenchman – film maker Frances, Emmanuel Itier, who lives in the US, will use his last movie which was just filmed in the first week of June as an example how to film a movie in 12 days. Words in Motion – Scriptwriter Robert Alberdink-Thijm (Tricked/Steekspel) will share how to write a script for a movie or television.

Crystal Clear – All-around sound man Gabriel Bocanegra, (sound mixing Edificio Royal, and field sound Abo So) will show how important audio is in a movie and give tips on recording and mixing the best audio.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

During the AIFF 2013 there will be two Panel Discussions. A series of interactive seminars aimed at stimulating healthy discussions between film lovers and filmmakers, these panels will cover a broad range of industry topics.

Continued on pg 5



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At Caribbean Queen Palm Beach Plaza Mall

Caribbean Queen for June is Artist Sandra Ospina



Palm Beach – The Caribbean Queen is proud to introduce its Caribbean Queen for the month of June 2013, local artist Sandra Ospina, prominently displaying her fun, recycled cigar-box bags in the store at Palm Beach Plaza Mall.

Sandra Milena Ospina Pombo was born in Palmira, Colombia, and the lush province of Valle del Cauca



was the focal point of Sandra's childhood and adolescent memories. Living and working in Aruba for the past ten years, enjoying this beautiful island, she learned to tap into these early memories by looking up to her father, who

ity scene, which was displayed in town each year. Sandra remembers that her dad was also commissioned by the Catholic Church to restore all art pieces within a cathedral, and as a little girl, she followed in his footsteps, creating poetry that surprised many as works of art beyond her years.

Sandra's compelling artistic background is coupled with her innate ability to rise to the challenge and create special souvenirs, attractive to both visitors and locals. She is eternally on the quest for a better, more appealing product and strives to create different items that excite visitors.

In recent years, she has been tinkering with innovative designs of purses made from cigar boxes, and since her dad passed away eight months ago, Sandra has been determined to carry on his legacy and devote more time to her artistic development.

She also admits that working on the cigar-box bags brings her closer to him. Every bag she creates has a unique style and look that often utilizes other recycled pieces, such as wine corks, key chains, dice, and even kitchen-cabinet door handles. Although some of Sandra's favorite pieces are just plain cigar boxes with indigenous Cuban designs, some are fancier and more ornate, as she hopes to appeal to more women with her work. Sandra also donates



was the artistic bread-winner for the family.

Sandra's dad was quite famous in Colombia as a plastic artist sculpting the statue of a soldier gracing the entrance to the army base. He also exhibited a gallery of pictures, including Palmira's famous people and places, and created a life-size nativ-

10% of all proceeds from her work to Casa Cuna, the local orphanage and children's home.

Sandra's collection for Caribbean Queen is a combination of her past collections and the new season styles, featuring different colors and ornamentation.

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Yemanja Introduces Stamp Card!

Aruba- Yemanja Woodfired Grill Restaurant, located in Oranjestad, right behind Renaissance Marina Hotel, has announced to start handing out stamp cards to collect for a free dinner for two! Rules are simple. Come to Yemanja, receive the stamp card + first stamp with a purchase of a minimum of \$100,- and start collecting till a maximum of 5 (within a 6 months period)! Being the first of its kind, Yemanja reaches out to new and loyal guests.

Never tried Yemanja before or have always loved the excellent cooking of Joyce Hüsken? Be sure to return and receive a free dinner!

Chef and owner Joyce Hüsken, pictured, has hand selected a 3-course menu, ensuring every meat, fish or vegetarian lover has their treat. Yemanja has it all! As of today, the stamp cards will



be handed out to everyone, so make sure you have dinner at Yemanja, and receive your

first stamp tonight!

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AIFF 2013 Industry Events

Continued from pg 3

Audiences will hear first-hand tricks of the trade from the panelists, and will be able to ask questions about their own production challenges.

The Emerging Auteur – a discussion with various film makers present discussing such topics as how to get the start to making your own movie, tips on how to obtain money to organize your shoot and much more.

Your Audience is Key – a discussion with the distributor and agent of movies, two Caribbean film makers and how to interest the public in your movie once it is finished.

What are the pros and cons to launching your movie on the internet and what to expect of a distributor when they buy your movie.

IN CONVERSATION WITH SERIES

Moderated by key members of the visiting international press, this enormously successful question-and-answer series has featured the likes of Richard Gere, Thelma Schoonmaker, Guillermo Arriaga, Kim Cattrall, Patricia Clarkson, Jonathan Demme, Virginia Madsen, and Ray Liotta, as they share intimate details about their illustrious careers in the film industry.

AIFF 2013 will be welcoming world renowned Venezuelan actress Maria Conchita Alonso, and Zoe Bell, the star of Raze and also one of the most popular stuntwomen in the world (Kill Bill, Oblivion, Django Unchained).

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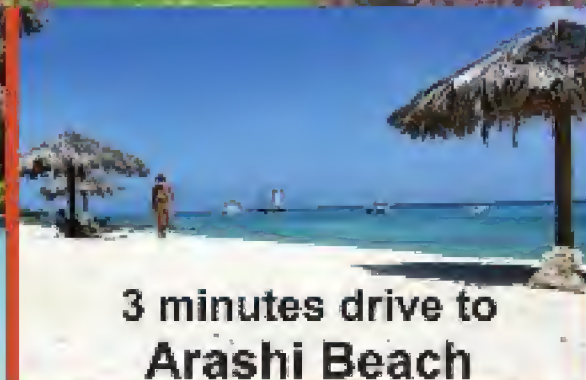
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ATA honors Joe and Linda Prussin at Radisson Hotel

Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice family whom are Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors, at their home away from home.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest who visits Aruba between 10 and



20 years consecutively

The honorees were Mr. Joe and Mrs. Linda Prussin residents of Butler New Jersey who got the honor of Distinguished Visitors. The Prussins has been visiting Aruba for for 10 years now.

Mr. and Mrs. Prussin are members of Radisson Hotel and have been enjoy-

ing the Island every year.

Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Germaine Wever Front Office Manager and Louella Oduber and Mandy Henriquez conducted the ceremony at Radisson Hotel.

The main reason they return to Aruba is because they consider Aruba to be the 'One Happy Island,' the great weather, white sandy beaches and the local food and friendly people.

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Obama in Berlin renews call for nuclear disarmament

Continued from pg 1

Nearly 50 years to the day after Kennedy proclaimed "Ich bin ein Berliner" in Berlin, Obama built his conceit around another quote from the assassinated Democrat's speech -- the idea of "peace with justice".

Obama issued a call for the equality of economic opportunity, gender, sexuality and respect for immigrants and all religious faiths, in a throwback to his own campaign rhetoric in 2008 and 2012.

And he made his firmest vow to date to make good on promises to tackle global warming, which have largely been derailed by resistance in

the US Congress and by a fear of harming the sluggish US economy.

"Peace with justice means refusing to condemn our children to a harsher, less hospitable planet," Obama said, to applause from the crowd.

Obama also vowed to do more to help those living in poverty and those, unlike the citizens of former East Berlin, who are still living under repression, including in the Middle East.

His speech though lacked the pomp of the soaring address in Berlin to 200,000 people he gave as a candidate for the White House in 2008.

Court rules relatives can sue over British soldier deaths

LONDON (AFP) - Relatives of British soldiers killed while fighting in Iraq can sue the government for negligence and claim damages under human rights law, the Supreme Court in London ruled on Wednesday.

Lawyers for the family members, who can now proceed to trial, said the ruling means the Ministry of Defence owes a duty of care to properly equip service personnel who go to war.

Debi Allbutt, who had brought one of the claims over the death of her 35-year-old husband Stephen in March 2003, said she "jumped up and

down with joy" when she heard the news.

"We've proven they (the government) owe a duty of care, and they can no longer hide behind the idea of combat immunity -- the soldiers have a right to life under human rights law," she said.

However, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said he was "very concerned at the wider implications of this judgment".

It "could ultimately make it more difficult for our troops to carry out operations and potentially throws open a wide range of military decisions to the uncertainty of litigation", he said.

Experts to re-examine DNA clues in fresh Knox appeal

ROME (AFP) - Contradictions and illogical conclusions in the ruling that freed US student Amanda Knox from jail mean DNA evidence will be re-examined from scratch and witnesses may be re-heard, her lawyer said Tuesday. "We were very surprised, we took it very badly," Luciano Ghirga said in reference to a damning report released by Italy's highest appeals court explaining why it quashed the acquittal of Knox and her former boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito. "The new court will re-examine all the evidence from the very start, with fresh expert evaluation and possibly fresh testimony from witnesses," he said. "We are ready to fight, to answer every challenge point by point," he added. Knox and Sollecito -- originally sentenced to 26 and 25 years in prison for sexually abusing and killing Knox's British housemate Meredith Kercher -- were acquitted by an appeals court in Perugia in 2011 after four years behind bars.

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US, allies plot next steps on North Korea

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States and its allies South Korea and Japan met Wednesday to plot their next steps on North Korea, amid a flurry of diplomacy as tensions gradually ease with the communist state.

Glyn Davies, the US special representative on North Korea policy, met his counterparts from Japan and South Korea on what the State Department called "our common interest in ensuring peace and stability on the Korean peninsula."

The meeting came on the same day that veteran North Korean negotiator Kim Kye-Gwan held talks in main ally China, which President Barack Obama recently praised for taking a harder line on Pyongyang's nuclear program.

North Korea carried out its third atomic bomb test in February and responded to condemnation by making

unusually fiery threats, including threatening that it was ready to strike the United States with nuclear weapons.

But North Korea in recent weeks agreed to talks with Seoul, which ultimately did not take place, and offered direct dialogue with the United States.

Washington, which saw the offer as a way to drive a wedge between itself and South Korea, has vowed to coordinate policy with regional players and called on North Korea to show it is se-

rious about denuclearization.

Davies in a speech last week said that North Korea's actions this year set the bar higher for the resumption of dialogue, and called on the communist state to address its nuclear issue as well as other concerns, including human rights.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was also visiting China, where he spoke Wednesday with President Xi Jinping about the Korean peninsula and other issues.

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International News

Time running out for Mideast peace: Blair

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Time is running out for the Middle East peace process, which must move forward or face total failure, former British prime minister Tony Blair said on Wednesday.

"The window of opportunity will be open for only a short space of time," he said, speaking in Jerusalem at the 2013 Presidential Conference, hosted by Israeli President Shimon Peres.

"Let's hope that over the coming weeks a plan can be put in place in which politics, economics and security are aligned. With (US) Secretary (of State) John Kerry's fantastic energy and commitment, we're all working hard to accomplish this," Blair told delegates.

Kerry has visited the region four times since taking office in February in a bid to push Palestinian and Israeli leaders to return to talks, the latest round of which broke down shortly after they were launched in September 2010.

"But we should understand, the window of opportunity will be open for only a short space of time. We must go through it together. If not the window will close again and could even close forever," Blair warned.

"Time is not our friend. This is urgent. This is now. And it is a time for statesman, not politicians."

During the session, Peres presented former US president Bill Clinton with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Israel's highest honour, thanking him for his "immeasurable" contribution towards peace.

"Your work laid the foundations which will one day bring peace to our region -

the two-states solution," he told him.

"You trail blazed the way to that desired destination. And although the work is not yet complete, the future will hang upon your immeasurable contribution."

In accepting the medal, Clinton said there was "no perfect answer" but urged the parties to continue the search for peace.

"The first step of building a new tomorrow is to get rid of the things that divide us, including seeing ourselves as victims," said Clinton.

"There are no final victories. There are no perfect warriors for peace. There are no flawless leaders. There is no perfect answer to any of this."

Violent crime in Haiti claims more than 1,000 lives

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Violent crime in Haiti has claimed the lives of more than a thousand people over the past year, including foreigners and United Nations peacekeepers, a human rights group said.

Between May 2012 and May of this year, at least 1,041 people were shot, stabbed, stoned or hanged, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) said in a report marking President Michel Martelly's second year in power.

United Nations peacekeepers and foreigners, as well as young children, minors and Haitian police officers, were victims of rapes, robberies, assassinations and kidnappings, the group said.

It listed 72 kidnappings, de-

KABUL (AFP) - The Afghan government on Wednesday lashed out at US efforts to broker peace with the Taliban, suspending crucial security talks with Washington and threatening to boycott prospective contacts with the insurgents in Qatar.

Kabul issued two strongly worded statements threatening to sabotage US efforts to start talks with the Taliban, just one day after its foes opened an office for dialogue in the tiny Gulf emirate.

With the US-led NATO combat mission due to end next year, US officials are determined to resume talks with the Taliban after tentative contacts limited to a prisoner swap collapsed last year.

But President Hamid Karzai, who has headed the US-backed Afghan government since a 2001 US-led invasion brought down the Taliban, opposes bilateral US-Taliban talks.

tailoring that young children were targeted.

The group said 972 cases of sexual violence were recorded with women, as well as young girls and boys, the victims. Fifty-five sex offenders were convicted in criminal courts, it added.

The group also published a list of 23 Haitian police officers who were shot and killed over the course of the year. Twenty-three others were shot and wounded, while four were hurt in stabbings, it added.

Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, is still recovering from a January 2010 earthquake that killed 250,000.

Martelly, a former pop singer, came to power in May 2011.

Kabul lashes out over prospective Taliban-US talks

On Wednesday he broke off ongoing Afghan-US talks on an agreement that would allow Washington to maintain soldiers in Afghanistan after a NATO combat mission ends next year.

Hopes of peace were given a further reality check when the Taliban claimed an overnight rocket attack that killed four US troops at the largest US-led military base in Afghanistan.

In response to the talks suspension, US President Barack Obama said he always expected "friction" at Afghan reconciliation talks but voiced hope that "despite those challenges the process will proceed".

But Karzai's spokesman Aimal Faizi told AFP there was a "contradiction between what the US government says and what it does regarding Afghanistan peace talks".

The row centred on the Taliban office calling itself the "Islamic Emirate Of Afghanistan" -- the formal name of its 1996-2001 government -- on the grounds that no such thing existed, officials said.

A follow-up statement from Kabul threatening to boycott prospective talks in Qatar unless they were "Afghan-led" exposed a wider rift and outright criticised the US involvement.



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Health & Living

EU fines drugs firms 150 mn euros for delaying cheap generics

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The EU executive on Wednesday imposed hefty fines of around 150 million euros on pharmaceutical firms including Denmark's Lundbeck for colluding to delay the sale a decade ago of a cheap generic version of a widely sold anti-depressant.

Lundbeck was fined 93.8 million euros by the European Commission for striking a 2002 agreement with producers of generic drugs to delay the introduction on the market of its popular anti-depressant, citalopram.

"It is unacceptable that a company pays off its competitors to stay out of its market and delay the entry of cheaper medicines," said Joaquin Almunia, the EU's Competition Commissioner.

"Agreements of this type directly harm patients and national health systems, which are already under tight budgetary constraints. The Commission will not tolerate such anticompetitive practices".

The generics firms involved include notably Alpharma (now part of Zoetis), Merck KGaA/Generics UK (Generics UK is now part of Mylan), Arrow (now part of Actavis), and Ranbaxy. They were fined 52.2 million euros.

The agreement between Lundbeck and the generics producers "violated EU antitrust rules that prohibit anti-competitive agreements," the Commission said in a statement.

Citalopram, a blockbuster antidepressant, was Lundbeck's best-selling product at the time.

When the Danish firm's patent for the citalopram molecule expired, one of the generics producers had started selling its own version and several others were preparing to do so.

But instead of competing with Lundbeck, the generics companies agreed in 2002 "not to enter the market in return

for substantial payments and other inducements from Lundbeck amounting to tens of millions of euros," the Commission said.

During its investigation into the case, the EU executive found internal documents that refer to a "club" being formed and to "a pile of \$\$\$" to be shared.

Lundbeck paid significant lump sums, purchased generics' stock for the sole purpose of destroying it under agreements designed to ensure the generics producers would stay out of the market for a set time.

Competition from generics is known to drive prices down significantly, reducing the profits of the producer on the branded product and bringing large benefits to patients.

The EU said that prices of generic citalopram dropped on average by 90 percent in Britain compared to Lundbeck's previous price level once widespread generic market entry took place.

Doctors urge access to Guantanamo hunger strikers



WASHINGTON (AFP) - More than 150 doctors from the United States and Britain have written to President Barack Obama urging him to grant independent medical care to hunger-striking Guantanamo detainees.

The hunger strike, which began more than four months ago, is meant to protest the inmates' indefinite detention at the military facility even though more than half have been cleared for release.

The letter, published Wednesday in the Lancet medical journal, said it was "imperative for (the detainees) to have access to independent medical examination and advice, as they ask, and as required by the UN and World Medical Association."

The group Physicians for Human Rights, meanwhile, recalled that it had urged Obama

to halt the force-feeding of detainees.

Of the 166 inmates held at the remote US military camp in Cuba, 104 are refusing food and 44 were being provided nourishment through nasal tubes as of Wednesday, said prison spokesman Lt. Col. Samuel House. One has been hospitalized but is not in critical condition.

"Detainees' rights to make decisions about their own health must be respected," said Vincent Iacopino, the group's medical advisor.

"Force feeding not only constitutes inhumane and degrading treatment, but is a clear violation of medical standards, and must be ended immediately."

Obama last month renewed his pledge to shutter the prison.

Obesity now declared "a disease,"

The American Medical Association has adopted a new policy that officially labels obesity as a disease "requiring a range of medical interventions to advance obesity treatment and prevention," according to an AMA statement. The U.S. obesity rate increased almost 50% between 1997 and 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Today, nearly 30% of American adults are considered obese, and the problem is almost as prevalent in kids. Childhood obesity has more than doubled in the past 30 years, the CDC says. Obesity for adults is defined as having a body mass index, or BMI, of 30 or higher. BMI is a way to measure body fat based on your weight and height. (Calculate your BMI here) Being obese increases your risk factor for developing many serious conditions, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, liver disease, sleep apnea and osteoarthritis. In fact, obesity has been linked to almost every chronic disease in some way or another. Obesity has long been recognized as a disease by other groups, but this move by the AMA sends a strong signal to the medical community, said CNN chief medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta. On the other hand, AMA's declaration could help increase funding for future obesity research. It could also lead to payment for doctors who want to simply talk to patients about nutrition or exercise -- time that's not currently reimbursed by insurance plans. Identifying obesity as a disease may also help in reducing the stigma often associated with being overweight, said Joe Nadglowski, president and CEO of the Obesity Action Coalition.

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Sci-Tech

Singapore in smog alarm as Indonesia forest fires rage



SINGAPORE (AFP) - Smog levels in Singapore hit a record high on Wednesday as raging forest fires from neighbouring Indonesia triggered a major health alarm and sent residents of the densely populated city-state scrambling for face masks.

Singapore's air pollutant index soared past the government-designated "hazardous" level of 300 before midnight as officials in both countries desperately sought a solution to the environmental crisis.

The previous high of 226 was recorded in September 1997 at the height of a South-east Asian calamity resulting from vast amounts of haze from Indonesia, where slash-and-burn farming generates vast amounts of smoke during

the dry season that begins in June.

Foreign tourists joined Singaporeans in expressing dismay at the situation.

Indignant Singaporeans attacked their government on the web for its handling of the problem. Disposable medical masks flew off drugstores' shelves as consumers and companies bought them in bulk and placed orders for more.

Singapore Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam said as the pollution index escalated that Indonesia "has agreed to a meeting between our environment officials" on Thursday.

The last major haze outbreak in Southeast Asia was in 2006.

Apple TV adds HBO Go, WatchESPN to line up

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Apple added HBO GO and WatchESPN to the line-up of programming available on its Apple TV devices that stream shows from the Internet to living room screens.

More than a billion television show episodes and 380 million films have been downloaded from Apple's online iTunes shop, according to the Cupertino, California-based maker of iPhones, iPads, iPods, and Macintosh computers.

Apple referred to its television box as a "hobby," but it promises to give the company a foothold in living rooms as lifestyles shift to streaming or downloading digital entertainment from the Internet.

Microsoft and Sony later this year will release new-generation videogame consoles designed to also serve as home entertainment hubs for music, films, television shows, social networking and more.

Apple TV boasted a selection of more than 60,000 movies and 230,000 television show episodes along with the iTunes music collection.

The company also said that Sky News, Crunchyroll and Qello have joined an Apple TV roster of content providers that includes Hulu Plus and Netflix.

India, Nepal monsoon floods leave 160 dead

DEHRADUN (AFP) - Military helicopters dropped emergency supplies yesterday to thousands of people stranded by flash floods that tore through towns and temples in northern India and neighbouring Nepal, killing more than 160, officials said.

Thousands of pilgrims and tourists have already been evacuated after floods and landslides caused by early monsoon rains wrought devastation through India's Himalayan foothills, they said.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the priority was rescuing those still stranded and helping the more than 10,000 people already evacuated, describing the floods as "most distressing".

He said the government would give \$170 million to the worst-hit state of Uttarakhand for rescue and relief operations, adding "all possible resources" have been deployed to deal with the "ghastly tragedy".

Torrential rains at least three times as heavy as usual have hit Uttarakhand, often called the "Land of the Gods," where Hindu shrines and temples built high in the mountains attract many pilgrims.

Some 65,000 people are still stranded, five days after the rains hit on Saturday, Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde told reporters in New Delhi.

Houses, multi-storied buildings, cars, bridges as well as roads have been swept away or damaged after rivers burst their

banks, forcing authorities to deploy military as well as civilian helicopters to evacuate people and drop essential food and other supplies.

Prime Minister Singh said the total official death toll is 102 "but it is feared that loss of lives could be higher".

Over the border in Nepal, at least 22 people were killed in recent days in landslides and flash floods also triggered by monsoon rains, officials said, prompting the government to step up relief efforts.

In northern India, close to 10,000 soldiers along with 13 teams from the National Disaster Response Force have been deployed for the rescue and relief effort, a statement from the prime minister said.

Soldiers from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police have been building rope and log bridges across swollen rivers to try to reach those stranded, said Ajay Chaudha, chief of the paramilitary force.

Local officials said 40 relief camps have been set up to house evacuated locals and tourists. Some 18 air force helicopters are ferrying many of those rescued to the camps, with a control centre set up in the holy town of Badrinath.

Tourists have been travelling to Uttarakhand in recent weeks to undertake pilgrimages before some sites are shut down for the monsoon season, which does not normally start for another two weeks.

COMICS

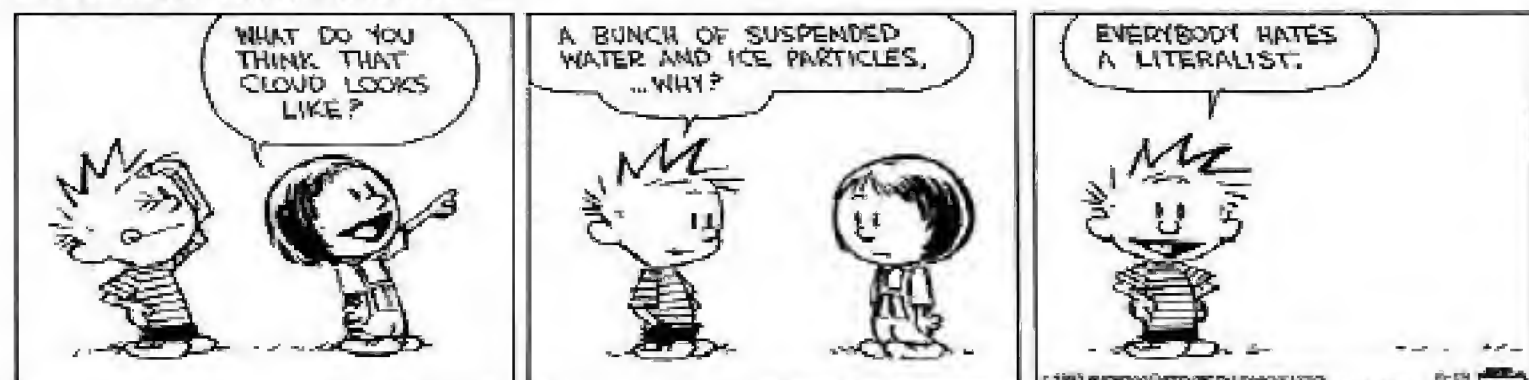
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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1. California's time (abbr.)
4. RBI or ERA
8. Arrived
12. Grassy meadow
13. Cleveland's state
14. Mary Baker _____
15. Devour
16. Wedding transport
17. Rx notation
18. Pain reliever brand
20. One _____ customer (2 wds.)

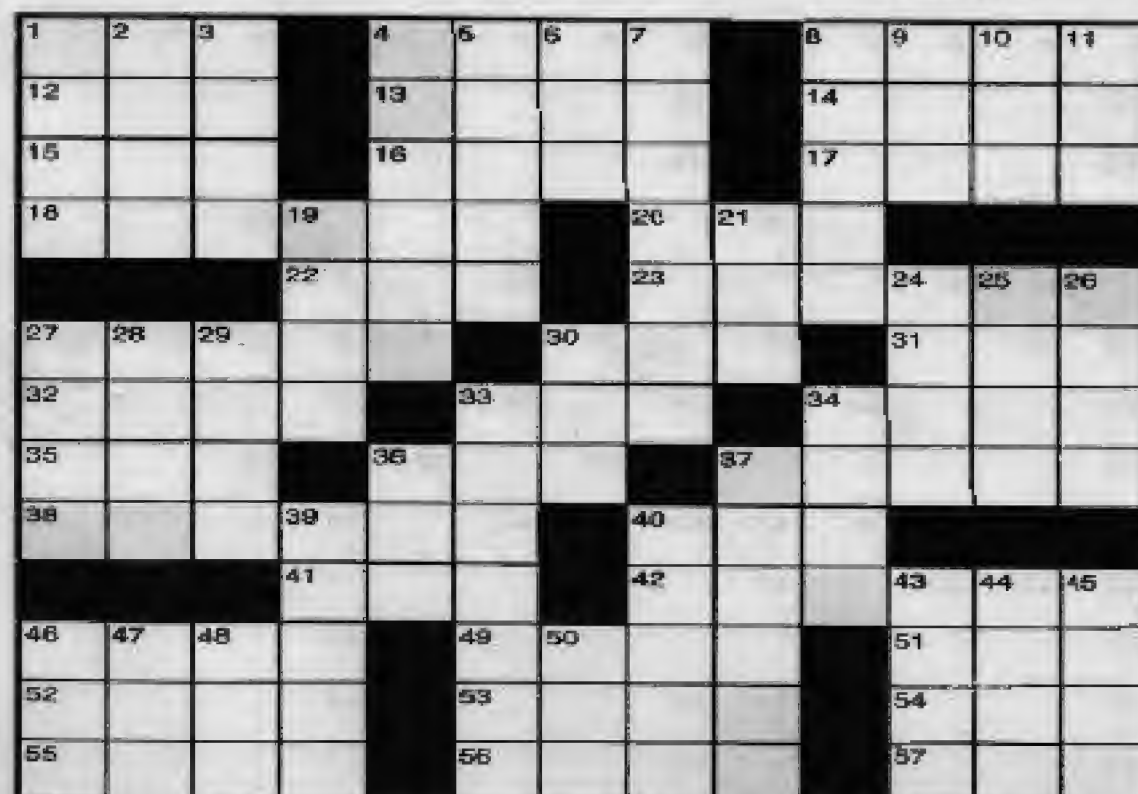
22. What a bar bouncer checks
23. Watch parts
27. Atkins and Huntley
30. Hole
31. "Oh, give _____ home..." (2 wds.)
32. Word on a diet-food package
33. Before, in poems
34. Burns and Jennings
35. It follows morning (abbr.)
36. Foot the bill
37. Natives of Helsinki
38. Baby's first apparel

40. Angled annex
41. Bonn "one"
42. Sound of bells out of tune
46. Poker premium
49. Currier's partner
51. "Electric" swimmer
52. Drench
53. Scarf spot
54. _____ Gatos
55. Wayside taverns
56. Obtains
57. Opp. of NNW

DOWN

1. Entreaty
2. Lennon or Astin
3. "Cheerio!" (2 wds.)
4. Nonliquid

5. Wheat _____ (crackers)
6. Marksman's expertise
7. Dustin Hoffman role
8. Deck wood
9. Fuss
10. Physicians (abbr.)
11. Ogle
19. Reference
21. Mel of Cooperstown
24. Prayer ending
25. Philadelphia's founder
26. Back talk
27. Attired
28. Stereo's relative (hyph.)
29. "Tell Mama" singer James
30. Nose around
33. Meriting
34. Pottery oven
36. Canadian prov.
37. Pocket-sized bottles
39. Looks through a keyhole
40. VCR button
43. Coagulates
44. Some summer babies
45. "Or _____!"
46. "_____ was saying..." (2 wds.)
47. Pierre's refusal
48. Sunbather's hue
50. Victory sign



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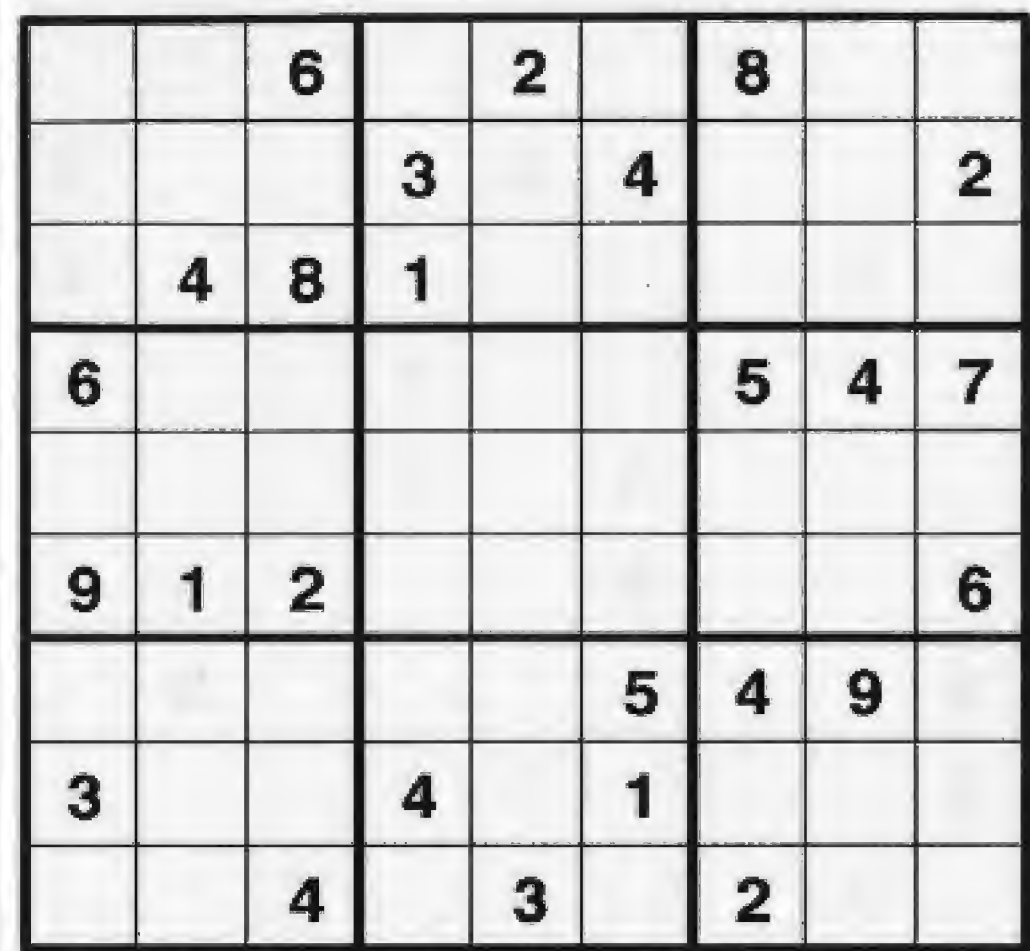
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	1	2	8	6	3	7	4	9
8	2	9	1	5	7	3	6	4
6	8	7	5	2	1	9	3	4
9	8	6	2	7	5	3	1	4
1	2	6	8	9	3	4	7	5
4	7	5	2	1	8	6	9	3
8	6	2	9	5	1	7	3	4
3	9	1	7	8	6	4	5	2
7	5	8	6	2	4	9	3	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

FINANCE

Dutch plan six bn euros in austerity cuts in 2014

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch government is planning additional budget cuts amounting to six billion euros (\$8 bn) next year in its battle to get its deficit back on track, Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem said on Wednesday.

"The die is cast, we commit ourselves to six billion (euros) structurally in extra measures to be taken next year," Dijsselbloem told the Dutch parliament.

In a letter to the Lower House, Dijsselbloem, who also chairs the Eurogroup of finance ministers, said the Dutch cabinet will make an official decision on the cuts in August which will then be presented in the budget to parliament in September.

His announcement comes a week after EU Economics Af-

fairs Commissioner Olli Rehn's visit to The Hague to present recommendations to get the Dutch deficit back below the EU's 3.0-percent target ceiling.

Rehn said the European Commission believed the Netherlands could reach a deficit target of 2.8 percent next year, but which would imply austerity measures to the tune of six billion euros.

The Netherlands is, like Germany, traditionally pro-fiscal discipline and austerity measures.

It announced on March 1 that it would slash its 2014 budget by a further 4.3 billion euros (\$5.6 billion) to respect the EU deficit limit.

However, the government announced in April it was postponing some austerity meas-

ures in the hope of stimulating growth, while respecting its EU obligations.

According to figures by the government's central planning bureau (CPB) think tank, the Dutch economy has shrunk to a level comparable to 2007, just before the world-wide financial crisis erupted.

"Given recent financial developments and the cabinet's wish to get its finances in order, we will follow the Commission's recommendations and will make additional suggestions about the six billion euros in August," Dijsselbloem said in his letter.

The Netherlands is closely aligned with Germany on the issue of fiscal discipline but its deficit has for the fourth year in a row breached the EU's 3.0-percent ceiling.

Dolce and Gabbana sentenced to jail for tax dodge

ROME (AFP) - An Italian court on Wednesday sentenced fashion house duo Dolce & Gabbana to one year and eight months in prison for tax evasion of 200 million euros (\$268 million).

They were also ordered by the court in Milan to pay a fine of 500,000 euros to Italy's national tax agency.

Lawyers for Dolce and Gabbana, whose celebrity clients include Beyonce and Madonna, immediately said they will appeal, and under Italian law the sentence will be suspended in the meantime.

Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana were accused of having transferred control of their brands to a shell company in Luxembourg in 2004 and 2005 to avoid paying Italian taxes.

Prosecutors had argued that setting up the Luxembourg

company Gado -- an acronym of the surnames of the two designers -- while the company was operating out of Italy was a bid to defraud the state.

They had called in May for the pair to be sent down for two years and six months.

In her closing speech at the trial, prosecutor Laura Pedio said there was "rock-solid proof" that the duo had committed "sophisticated tax fraud".

She said Gado was "a sort of cloud with the consistency of gas," while fellow prosecutor Gaetano Ruta said it was "an artificial construction the aim of which was to get a tax advan-

tage".

Although Dolce and Gabbana had originally been accused of tax evasion of around one billion euros, the court ruled that just 200 million euros of that sum was relevant.


Four other people, including Dolce's brother Alfonso, were given suspended jail sentences.

Investigators completed a probe into the designers and five other people, in 2010 and the case was dismissed in April 2011 but reopened in November last year and went to trial.

Founded in 1985, Dolce & Gabbana employs more than 3,000 people and has 250 shops in 40 countries around the world.



SHANGHAI (AFP) - Excavators are displayed at the ceremony on a 1.3 billion USD General Motors plant in Shanghai on June 19, 2013. US auto giant General Motors on June 19 broke ground on a 1.3 billion USD plant in Shanghai to produce Cadillacs as it seeks a larger share of China's growing market for luxury cars.



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Fed may begin cutting QE later this year: Bernanke

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Wednesday that the Fed could begin to ratchet down its key stimulus program later this year, signaling a growing confidence in the US economy.

The Fed's policy board kept its quantitative-easing program, aimed at holding interest rates down, locked in place for the meantime, saying that unemployment remains high and growth is still being held back by government spending cuts.

But Bernanke said that if growth continues to pick up pace, the Fed could begin reeling in the \$85 billion-a-month in bond purchases sometime later this year, and bring the operation to a close by mid-year 2014.

Stressing that "our purchases are tied to what happens in the economy," Bernanke said that most of the members of the Federal Open Market Committee foresaw tapering the key stimulus program in the coming months.

In addition, he said, if the FOMC's current forecasts for the economy are met, "we will continue to reduce the pace of purchases in measured steps through the first half of next year, ending purchases around mid-year."

Bernanke's comments confirmed market expectations that the Fed sees growth tenta-

tively firm enough to begin pulling back the quantitative-easing (QE) program, which aims at holding longer-term interest rates down.

His words sent bond prices and stocks down while the dollar climbed sharply, all in anticipation that an era of rock-bottom interest rates was near an end.

The S&P 500 closed down 1.4 percent and the 30-year Treasury bond yield jumped to 3.41 percent from 3.34 percent. The euro sank 0.8 percent against the dollar, to \$1.3287.

US bond prices had already sunk interest rates and pushed higher over the past month in expectation that the Fed was close to turning the corner on five years of efforts to boost US growth, since the economic crisis erupted in 2008.

The FOMC said in its policy statement the economy continues to grow at a "moderate" pace and that downside risks had eased, but it added that tightened fiscal policy "is restraining economic growth."

The Fed policy board eased its growth forecast for the US economy this year slightly to 2.3-2.6 percent, while raising it for 2014 to 3.0-3.5 percent.

But, the forecasts show, the Fed clearly sees improvement ahead in the economy despite sharp government spending cuts.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

L	A	B	S	E	W	E	C	R	O	P
E	V	E	N	A	H	S	P	E	L	E
N	I	N	O	R	E	S	E	R	V	E
O	V	E	R	S	L	E	E	P	S	O
D	E	S	I	N	A	P				
F	B	I	T	E	N	O	P	A	L	
E	A	C	H	R	E	P	E	L	B	A
D	A	T	E	A	R	T	A	C	T	
		E	R	R	A	U	D	I		
H	A	I	B	A	R	I	T	O	N	E
O	U	T	R	I	D	E	R	D	E	L
S	T	A	Y	I	I	O	S	L	O	
S	O	L	E	O	D	E	S	T	E	W

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Doctors reap in billions as Cuba's top export



HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba is out to boost its top export, an ever-more critical pillar of its economy. And it's not sugar: hired-out Cuban doctors earn the Communist government over six billion dollars a year.

Medical services exports "are now the leading source of hard-currency income for the nation, and have great potential to keep growing," Foreign Trade Minister Rodrigo Malmierca said at a recent event.

About 40,000 Cubans doctors are working on contracts in 66 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The next big-ticket client could be Brazil -- the booming South American giant is considering hiring 6,000 Cuban doctors to help cover its health care staff shortage.

It may be somewhat surprising that Cuba -- once known for its exports like sugar, cigars, citrus fruits and rum -- now has four main pillars of its state-controlled economy.

Only one -- nickel -- is a traditional commodity, bringing in \$1.1 billion a year as the country's fourth most important import. But in this nation of endless white beaches, nickel is still less than half as

significant as tourism, which brings in \$2.5 billion a year into government coffers.

Impressively, in a Caribbean country of just 11 million people, remittances -- money sent by relatives abroad -- also end up giving \$2.5 billion to the Cuban government. Why? Because their family members here spend it mostly at stores owned by the government.

Each of those big-ticket, hard-currency spinners however pales in comparison to the whopping \$6 billion Cuba earns each year in exporting professional services -- sports trainers, teachers and especially doctors -- on overseas contracts.

At home, doctors earn between \$25 and \$41 dollars each month, and they are not allowed to leave Cuba at will.

If they were to head to the nearby US state of Florida, where Cubans can work legally just after arrival, they could earn a physician's salary of \$150,000 per year or more.

Private mechanics, waiters at restaurants catering to tourists, and even hairdressers can earn far more than do highly-trained doctors in Cuba, making overseas medical missions appealing to this coun-

try's doctors.

The Cuban government acts as a middleman in the transactions, hiring out their medical staff to foreign countries.

The amounts Havana charges for the services of their workers are not made public, but payment, in hard currency, is for significantly more than what the doctors are paid personally. The government keeps the difference between its contracting price and what it pays the Cuban worker monthly.

It's a big business that is getting bigger: Havana has said it wants to increase the number of countries paying to import Cuban doctors. In a nation proud of its public health tradition, it also is charity in some cases: Cuba gives doctors' services to 40 countries that cannot afford to pay for them for free.

President Raul Castro's government recently vowed that medical missions, which started under his brother Fidel Castro back in 1998, would be maintained and even expanded.

At the moment, 26 nations are paying the Cuban government to send them doctors, at a salary level determined by the Cuban government.

They said money earned from the medical contracting arrangement with Venezuela, for example, "helps pay for expenses we incur in other countries" and is also used "to improve workers' health care and working conditions."

The politically based economic arrangement with Venezuela harkens back to the Cold War, when Cuba exported its sugar to the East bloc for cut-rate Soviet oil.

via text message???



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - British comic Russell Brand told Katy Perry he was divorcing her by text message, the US pop star said in a new magazine interview, adding that she hasn't heard from him since. Brand issued a statement in December 2011 announcing that he had filed for divorce 14 months after the pair were wed in India, saying that "I'll always adore her and I know we'll remain friends." Perry, in an interview in the latest edition of Vogue magazine, which features her as its cover story, tells it differently. "He's a very smart man, and I was in love with him when I married him," she told the magazine, adding: "Let's just say I haven't heard from him since he texted me saying he was divorcing me December 31, 2011."



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US actor Edward Furlong, whose credits range from "Terminator 2" (1991) to 2011 hit "The Green Hornet," was charged Tuesday with assaulting his girlfriend, prosecutors said. The 35-year-old is also accused of threatening her if she went to the police, and could face up to four years behind bars if convicted, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said. The actor, who had already faced two battery charges involving the same woman, allegedly violated a restraining order by going to the woman's West Hollywood home and assaulting her last month.

Buster's is back in Eagle Beach at Trop Casino



The home of the Beer Pong drinking game

-- Fans of Aruba's favorite sports bar are happy to hear that Buster's Garage has relocated to the restaurant/bar space inside Trop Casino. Now Eagle Beach resort guests have a great place for a bargain-priced breakfast or a bucket of beer while rooting for the team of their choice.

Buster's has that great, homey feel of settling in to enjoy a game with buddies,

greatly due to the warmth and enthusiasm of owner Rusty. He takes pride in making patrons feel welcome. "If somebody really needs to watch their home team on the field, we'll be happy to put it on for them," he confidently assured us. "We have 3 satellite dishes with separate packages to pick up every station imaginable. If there is a game going on out there somewhere, we'll find it."

With giant screens everywhere throughout the joint, there isn't a bad seat in the house. Aside from their all day menu of game-watching favorites, they also feature a hearty breakfast menu. The "Grand Slam Platter" includes eggs any style, pancakes or waffles, bacon, juice, fresh made home fries with coffee or tea for only \$9. Lunch and



A whopping cheese nachos w/chicken dish



Threesome, takes care of the entertainment

dinner menus reflect the same moderate pricing with required sports bar standards such as chicken wings, club sandwiches, burgers and a heaping helping of nachos, averaging \$9, pizza and main courses range from \$11 to \$15.

Aside from the games and the gambling, patrons can expect great entertainment three nights weekly with one of Aruba's most popular trios, "Threesome." There are also

some wild times getting acquainted with Rusty's Beer Pong, the Drinking Game of Champions. Win or lose, players always end up with a smile on their face.

This family friendly place, with air hockey and video games for the kids, along with a special menu for young ones, is open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM until 1:00 AM for late night snacking and fun.

O Condominiums

A small, exclusive boutique condo resort tailored to your taste



Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are

proud to unveil their new pet project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of

the nine projects they have successfully completed and maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and

an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck, concierge services, lounge area, BBQ

station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

Contact the sales office at 297-732-0000/ 297-287-5300 or visit their website: <http://www.o-eaglebeach.aruba.com>



Football: Neymar brilliance all but put Brazil into semis



FORTALEZA (AFP) - Brazil superstar Neymar scored one goal and set up the other to give hosts Brazil a 2-0 win over Mexico in their Group A game and all but assure them of a place in the semi-finals of the Confederations Cup in Fortaleza on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old took his tally to 13 goals in his last 15 games for his country with a superb left-footed volley early in the first-half, and then produced a brilliant shimmy between two Mexican defenders in second-half stoppage time to set up Jo for the second goal.

While Brazil - who had lost six of their last seven meetings with the Mexicans - are all but in the semis, Mexico's hopes hang by a thread after two defeats as Japan, who lost 3-0 to Brazil in their opener, must beat Euro 2012 finalists Italy later on Wednesday to give them any hope of reaching the last four.

For Brazil it was a much cheerier occasion than the last time they played in Fortaleza in 2002 as their celebrations at winning the World Cup in South Korea and Japan fell flat as Mexico beat them 1-0.

Neymar confirmed Brazil's early dominance with a stunning left-footed volley in the ninth minute after Mexico defender Francisco Rodriguez's header fell to him.

Dani Alves, who had provided the cross which Rodriguez failed to clear properly, then went close with a shot towards the far right corner but Mexico goalkeeper Jose Corona did well to tip it

over the bar.

The signs had been there right from the start that Brazil were intent on sealing their place in the last four as Chelsea star Oscar scored after



Brazil's forward Neymar (L) celebrates with his mother Nadine

a flowing move only for it to be ruled out by English referee Howard Webb for offside.

Neymar went close to doubling his tally in the 23rd minute as he chested the ball down outside the area and let fly with his shot going just over the bar.

Brazil went slightly off the boil after that and weren't helped when Oscar's Chelsea clubmate David Luiz had to go off for lengthy treatment after injuring his nose in a clash with one of his team-mates.

However, not even with the hosts down to 10 men could Mexico press home the advantage, as they produced lots of pretty football, stemming from Mallorca's Giovanni dos Santos, but failed to round it off with the killer touch.

The Brazilians had the ball in the net early in the second-half as Thiago Silva headed home, but once again it was ruled out for offside.

Brazil had several chances after that as they looked to seal the win but Hulk hit a shot into the side netting, after being set up by Neymar, while the goalscorer also went close.

Luiz, fully rehabilitated after his nose bleed, produced probably a goal saving clearance on the hour mark as he slid in to turn behind a dangerous ball played across goal with Manchester United striker Javier Hernandez lurking just behind him.

The pace of the game slowed dramatically in the second-half as the high humidity

had an inevitable effect on the players.

However, it didn't stop Neymar from one last moment of brilliance to set up Jo and send the home fans into ecstasy.

FIFA Confed. Cup

	GF	GA	PTS
Group A			
Brazil	5	0	6
Italy	2	1	3
Mexico	1	4	0
Japan	0	3	0
Group B			
Nigeria	6	1	3
Spain	2	1	3
Uruguay	1	2	0
Tahiti	1	6	0



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SPORTS

Golf: Injured Tiger will not defend title at National



BETHESDA (AFP) - World number one Tiger Woods will not defend his title next week at the US PGA National because of a strained left elbow after doctors advised him to rest before next month's British Open.

Woods announced his withdrawal from the event, which his foundation runs and uses as a charity benefit event, on his website yesterday.

The US PGA tournament, one of the last major US tune-ups for the British Opens, runs June 27-30 at Congressional Country Club in suburban Washington.

Woods, whose 14 major titles are four shy of the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus, injured the elbow last month on

his way to victory at the Players Championship, although that was not common knowledge until last week's US Open.

Woods aggravated the injury last week blasting out of the dense rough at Merion and played through pain on the way to a share of 32nd place at 13-over par 293 total, his worst 72-hole professional US Open score relative to par.

The 37-year-old American has won four times this year, giving him 78 career titles, only four shy of matching the all-time PGA triumphs record set by the late Sam Snead.

Woods expressed regrets to sponsors and fans for not playing but said he will attend the tournament.

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NBA: James relishes latest shot at game-seven glory

MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James and the Miami Heat tied the NBA finals with a miraculous comeback Tuesday and now they face an even bigger hurdle -- a winner-take-all game seven.

Ray Allen hit a three pointer in the final seconds of regulation and James shook off a slow first half to finish with a triple double as the Miami Heat forced a seventh game by beating the San Antonio Spurs 103-100 on Tuesday.

Four time NBA most valuable player James called Thursday's contest the "biggest game of my life" and said it is just as crucial that he

be mentally as well as physically up for the challenge.

"I won't be too serious," James said during Wednesday's practice. "I won't go into a bunker but I will be mentally sharp, mentally driven and mentally focussed tomorrow night."

To achieve that, James said the next 24 hours would be spent relaxing at home and watching television with his family and friends. Some of his teammates from his St. Vincent-St. Mary High School team in Ohio flew in for the series.

James, who will marry his high school sweetheart and mother of his two kids in September, said he prepares for games in two ways.

When he wants to get serious he visualises how he is going to make plays on the court, and when he wants to stay loose he sits down and watches TV with his kids, ages eight and six.

"They're going to make me watch SpongeBob or something at 9:00," James said.

"You don't want to think about the game too much," he added. "It's probably going to be one of the biggest games, if not the biggest game, of my life."

James said he didn't sleep much after Tuesday's overtime contest.

Miami is seeking to become the eighth team to rally from a 3-2 deficit in the finals. Since 1985 -- when the league switched to a 2-3-2 series format -- no road team has ever won a game seven in the finals.

James, who was born to a 16-year-old single mother, is well versed in NBA history so he knows the significance of the stage he is on.

"I am blessed, man," he said. "I don't even know how I got here. I wasn't supposed to be in the NBA, if you go by statistics and things of me growing up where I grew up."

"Every time I go into my locker room and see the 'James' on the back of an NBA jersey, I'm like wow, no criticism can deter me from playing this game because of that."

James said limiting his mistakes will be crucial down the stretch in game seven as he relishes his latest shot at game-seven heaven.

"I didn't sleep last night either just thinking about all the plays, especially for me personally, my turnovers I had late in the game," he said.

"I've done that in a few games in the post-season and I'm not too proud about it."

"I know what I can't do in game seven if we want to win another championship."

NBA: Spurs upbeat despite game-six meltdown

MIAMI (AFP) - The San Antonio Spurs must erase the memory of their epic game-six collapse if they are to become the first team since 1978 to win a game seven of the NBA Finals on the road.

"It is very important we bounce back and we forget last night," Spurs star guard Tony Parker said of Miami's rally for a 103-100 overtime win over the Spurs to level the best-of-seven championship series at three wins each.

"We don't get affected by big losses. I am not worried about our team bouncing back."

San Antonio was just seconds away from their fifth championship in game six on Tuesday when the Heat rallied from a five-point deficit to force the extra session then win it in overtime, forcing Thursday's winner-take-all matchup.

With victory almost certain for the Spurs, Heat fans started heading for the exits and arena workers began to ring the court with yellow tape to keep the crowd off the floor so the official celebration could begin.

"I don't know what happened in the overtime and fourth," San Antonio's Tim Duncan said immediately following the game. "Just our shots weren't there. It is a disappointing loss."

Duncan said Wednesday

that the Spurs had a team meeting over dinner after game six to discuss what went wrong and how they were going to bounce back in game seven.

"It helped. It did," Duncan said. "The other option is a bunch of us go back to our rooms and sit in our rooms and sit there by ourselves and beat yourself up."

"So it's always good to be around teammates and kind of get some stuff out in the open. We did exactly that. We'll be ready to rock."

No NBA team has won a game seven on the road in the NBA Finals since the Washington Bullets, now the Washington Wizards, defeated the Seattle SuperSonics, now the Oklahoma City Thunder, in 1978.

Duncan came out swinging on Tuesday by scoring 25 points in the first half as he accounted for half of the Spurs' 50 points at the break.

The Spurs weren't able to do that in game six as the defending champion Heat showed they are a veteran team with significant playoff experience.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich chose to sit Duncan in the final seconds of regulation time when they had the lead but Duncan said Wednesday he wished he had been out there.

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NBA game six



MIAMI - LeBron James (R) of the Miami Heat drives against Manu Ginobili (L) of the San Antonio Spurs in the fourth quarter during Game 6 of the NBA Finals against the Miami Heat at the American Airlines Arena yesterday in Florida. Miami defeated San Antonio 103-100 in overtime to even the best-of-seven championship series 3-3.



Miami Heat fans leave NBA Finals Game 6 early, not allowed back in for Heat comeback win.

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(All teachers are invited to shake chalk off at)



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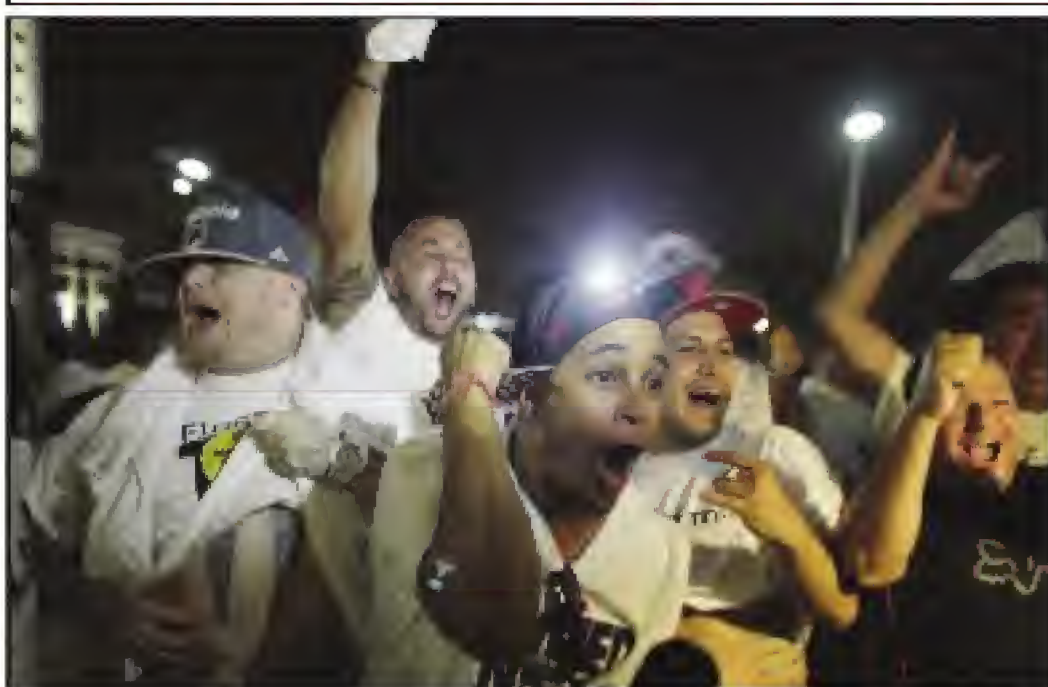
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NBA: Heat put brakes on Spurs' victory bash



Heat's fan celebrating

MIAMI (AFP) - The defending champion Miami Heat staved off elimination by beating the San Antonio Spurs 103-100 in overtime behind a 32-point performance from LeBron James to force a game seven in the NBA finals.

James made the game-win-

ning jump shot in overtime and Ray Allen drained a two clutch free throws with two seconds left to seal it as the Heat stormed back from a 13-point deficit in front of a crowd of 19,900 at American Airlines arena late Tuesday.

The Heat evened the best-of-

seven series at 3-3 after being down by five points with 28 seconds remaining in regulation.

"That was by far the best game I have ever been a part of," James said. "To be part of something like this is something you would never be able to recreate once you are done playing the game."

Game seven will be played tonight in Miami.

James scored 18 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter and overtime as he sparked the late comeback for the Heat, which trailed by 13 points late in the third quarter.

Mario Chalmers scored 20 points and Chris Bosh added 10 points, 11 rebounds and two blocked shots for the Heat, which is a perfect 7-0 following a loss in the post-season. Miami dropped game five at San Antonio on Sunday.

Tim Duncan finished with 30

points and 17 rebounds and Kawhi Leonard had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, which last won the NBA title in 2007 when they knocked off a Cleveland Cavaliers team led by a young James.

San Antonio appeared to be heading for their fifth NBA title in franchise history when the wheels fell off late in the fourth quarter as they blew a 10-point lead entering the final quarter.

American Airlines officials even started preparing the court for the Spurs victory celebration before the Heat went on a 6-1 run to close the fourth quarter to send the game into extra time.

Heat veteran Allen drained a clutch 25-foot three-pointer with five seconds to play in regulation time to tie the game at 95-95.

Tony Parker had a chance to clinch the win for the Spurs in

regulation, but his shot at the buzzer from 12-feet never got near the rim.

"This is elite competition. Two teams that aren't backing up," said Heat coach Erik Spoelstra. "We feel very grateful we have an opportunity to play for a title in game seven. There is nothing bigger than a game seven."

Allen helped spark Miami's season-saving rally as he scored all of his points in the fourth quarter and overtime after missing his first four shots from the field.

He made a lay up with six minutes left in the fourth to make it 84-82 and give the Heat their first lead since the opening quarter.

After Spurs posted a wire-to-wire win in game five, Tuesday's contest started out as a tight affair with four lead changes in the first quarter.